

Capsule Summary  
SM-539  
Sparks/Holley House  
Leonardtown  
Private

c. 1890s

Constructed in the 1890s, the Sparks/Holley house represents a significant two story, two bay, frame dwelling situated on the banks of Breton Bay. In a deed between William F. Greenwell (grantee) and Laura W. Holmes, et al (grantors) dated September 1900, the conveyance describes the property as "now occupied by Wesley R. Sparks" and his wife Catherine Sparks. It goes on to mention that Sparks purchased the property from Frank N. Holmes in a previous deed. Unfortunately, no date or deed reference for this transaction is given and none could be found. While the dwelling's original builder is unclear, the house remains an excellent example of a late-nineteenth century residence. Its wrap around porch with turned supports and scroll-sawn brackets as well as a cross gable with fishscale siding typify decorative treatments during the timeperiod.

SM-539, The Sparks/Holley House  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

|                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Geographic Organization:            | Western Shore                         |
| Chronological/Developmental Period: | Industrial Urban Dominance, 1870-1930 |
| Historic Period Theme:              | Architecture                          |

Resource Type

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Category:                  | Building  |
| Historic Environment:      | Town      |
| Historic Function and Use: | Residence |
| Known Design Source:       | None      |

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-539

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Sparks/Holley House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number .05 miles E of Washington Street near Leonardtown wharf \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 3

state Maryland county St. Mary's

## 3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership  | Status  | Present Use   |
|---|--|---|---|
| ___ district                                    | ___ public   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | ___ agriculture                                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private        | ___ unoccupied                                      | ___ commercial  |
| ___ structure                                   | ___ both   | ___ work in progress                                | ___ educational                                       |
| ___ site  | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                          | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | ___ entertainment                                     |
| ___ object                                      | ___ in process                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | ___ government  |
|   | ___ being considered                               | ___ yes: unrestricted                               | ___ industrial  |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | ___ no  | ___ military  |
|   |  |   | ___ museum  |
|   |  |   | ___ park  |
|   |  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
|   |  |   | ___ religious   |
|   |  |   | ___ scientific  |
|   |  |   | ___ transportation                                    |
|   |  |   | ___ other:  |

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John A. and Jean A. Moulds

street & number PO Box 336 telephone no.: 301-475-5885

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Md 20650

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 212

street & number folio 261

city, town Leonardtown state Md

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-539

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Sparks/Holley house is a c. 1890s, two-story, frame dwelling with a gable roof located approximately 0.1 miles from the Leonardtown Wharf and Washington Street on Breton Bay. Located only a few yards from the Bay, the house was constructed on a slight slope and commands views of the water, Leonardtown wharf, and of nearby Buzzard Point. Other homes of similar size, style, and form are located near the dwelling.

The south or primary elevation consists of two, two-story sections separated by a vertical piece of trim. The section west of the trim, constructed in the 1940s, exhibits a concrete block foundation, aluminum siding (that is found throughout the house), and two pairs of one-over-one windows on the first floor and two single, one-over-one windows on the second floor. Composition shingles cover the gable roof that also exhibits an enclosed cornice. The west section of the elevation is the original dwelling. It exhibits a brick foundation, two bays--a two-over-two window and a modern glass door on the first floor and two, two-over-two windows on the second floor and a gable roof with a ridge line that runs contiguous with the western section's. The first floor bays are shaded by a wrap around porch with scroll sawn porch brackets and turned supports. This part of the elevation also features a cross gable decorated with fish-scale shaped wood shingles as well as two pieces of trim that cross each other.

The west elevation, or west gable end, consists of a gable roof entrance to the basement, a paired set of one-over-one sash on the first floor, and a single one-over-one window on the second floor. This elevation also reveals the rear part of the dwelling that consists of a shed roof addition to the original gable roof, two room dwelling. A modern door and casement window provide entry and light into the first story addition, while a two-over-two window provides light to the second floor of the original dwelling.

The north elevation features the gable end of the original dwelling, two shed additions to either side of the gable end, and the rear of the two-story, 1940s block. The rear of the 1940s block consists of two, one-over-one sash on the first and second floors and an exterior brick chimney flue. The gable end of the original block only exhibits a single, casement window.

The east elevation is the most altered of all the elevations. The shed addition to the north exhibits a large bay window, while the original block features sliding glass doors on the first floor and a bay window on the second floor. The wrap around porch, however, was retained as it provides entry through a modern glass door to the shed addition.

The interior of the original section retains some its original fabric. According to the owner, the original two rooms had been covered from wall to ceiling with beaded matchstick. At present only the front room has matchstick used as wainscoting and covering the ceiling. The front room also contains the open string stair to the second floor. This stair exhibits its original turned newel, but the balusters have been replaced. The rear room of the original block has been altered into a modern kitchen, but once contained a stair to the basement below that served as a root cellar. This cellar featured a ledge constructed of a large aggregate concrete that ringed three of foundation's four walls in order to facilitate this storage function.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-539

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Constructed in the 1890s, the Sparks/Holley house represents a significant dwelling situated on the banks of Breton Bay. In a deed between William F. Greenwell (grantee) and Laura W. Holmes, et al (grantors) dated September 1900, the conveyance describes the property as "now occupied by Wesley R. Sparks" and his wife Catherine Sparks. It goes on to mention that Sparks purchased the property from Frank N. Holmes in a previous deed. Unfortunately, no reference for this transaction is given and none could be found. While the dwelling's original builder remains unclear, the house still represents an excellent example of a late-nineteenth century residence. Its wrap around porch with turned supports and scroll-sawn brackets as well as a cross gable with fishscale siding typify decorative treatments during the timeperiod.

After changing owners several times in the early-1900s, the house was purchased by Enoch B. Abell from Joseph and Lillian B. Mattingly in 1910. During his ownership, the house was lived in by a variety of tenants until it was purchased by William G. Holley in 1943. According to the present owner of the house, Jean Moulds, Holley made several additions to the home, but left the core two rooms of the house and the exterior decorations largely intact.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-539

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3/4 of an acreQuadrangle name Leonardtown, MdQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed reference.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoningdate November, 1996street & number 328 Washington Streettelephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

— SM-539, The Sparks/Holley House  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted)

Reference: MRB Liber 212, Folio 261

Grantee: John and Jean A. Moulds

Grantor: R. Bascom Broun III and Dorothy L. Broun

Date: March 29, 1985

Note: The property was purchased for \$115,000.

Reference: CBG Liber 109, Folio 207

Grantee: R. Bascom Broun III and Dorothy L. Broun

Grantor: William G. Holley

Date: August 30, 1963

Reference: CBG Liber 15, Folio 373

Grantee: William and Mary C. Holley

Grantor: B. Kennedy Abell, et al.

Date: August 17, 1943

— Note: This deed notes that both Enoch B. and Katherine M. Abell died intestate. As a result their heirs choose to sell the property to the Holleys. The heirs include B. Kennedy Abell and Adelaide M. Abell, his wife, E. Marguerite Duke, Mary Elizabeth Mattingly, widow, James F. Abell and Leonora M. Abell, John J. Duke, M. Heloise Stokel and Edward J. Stokel.

Reference: EBA Liber 8, Folio 525

Grantee: Enoch B. Abell

Grantor: Joseph and Lillian B. Mattingly

Date: August 24, 1910

Reference: EBA Liber 8, Folio 509

Grantee: Joseph M. Mattingly

Grantor: Aline Bullock

Date: August 11, 1910

Note: Reference made to the will of J. Arthur Bullock (PHD Liber 1, Folio 280) who devised the property to Aline Bullock.

Reference: EBA Liber 4, Folio 382

Grantee: J. Arthur Bullock

Grantor: William F. Greenwell and Nellie E. Greenwell

Date: April 28, 1905

Note: The property was sold for \$425.

Reference: EBA Liber 1, Folio 437

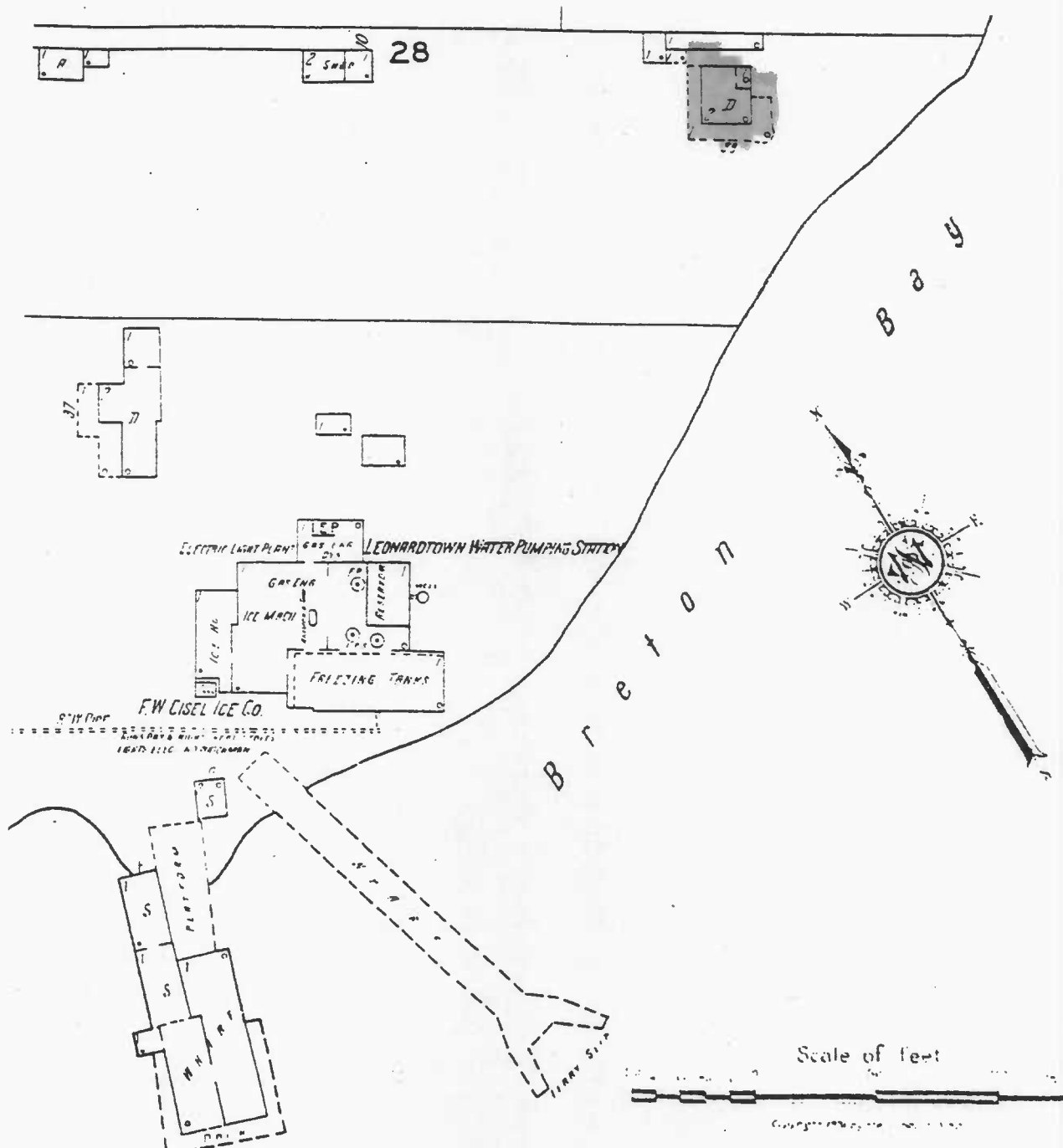
Grantee: William F. Greenwell

Grantor: Laura W. Holmes, Wesley R. Sparks, and Catherine Sparks

Date: September 17, 1900

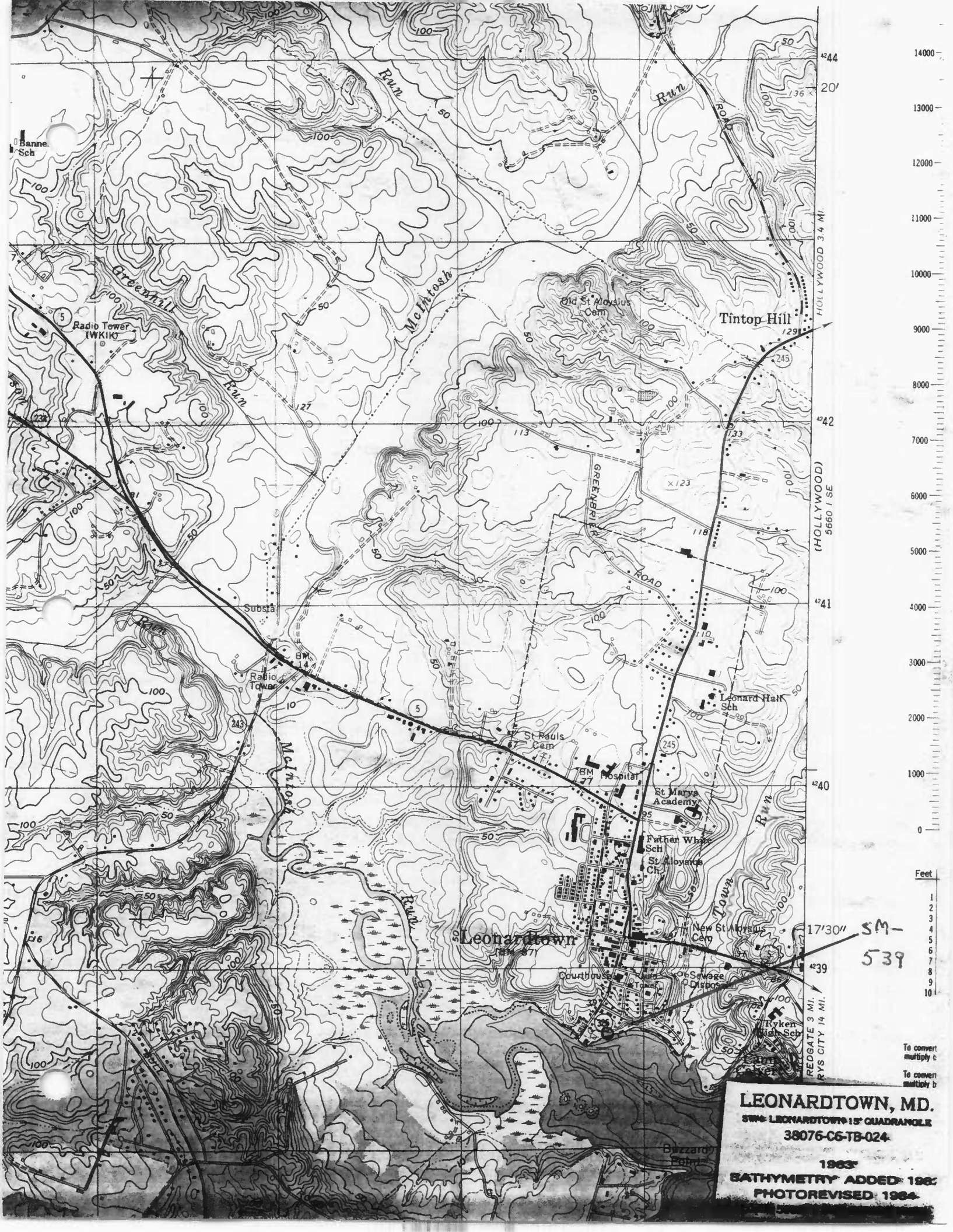
— Note: The deed describes the property as "now occupied by Wesley R. Sparks and which he purchased from the said Frank N. Holmes and was now resold to the said William E. Greenwell and desires that the said Laura W. Holmes, widow, and sole devisee of said Frank W. Holmes is to convey the property to William F. Greenwell."

SM-539, The Sparks/Holley House  
 St. Mary's County  
 Significance 8.2



1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Leonardtown showing the Sparks/Holley House. The building was owned by Enoch B. Abell at the time of this map.





**LEONARDTOWN, MD.**  
SW 1/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
38076-C6-TB-024  
1963  
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1964



SM-539

Sparks/Holley House  
St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

August 1996

Md SHPO

SW perspective

1 of 4



SM-539

Sparks/Holley House

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranretta

August, 1996

Md SHPO

S elevation

2 of 4



SM-539

Sparks/Holley House

St. Mary's (Catholic)

rk Panzer

August, 1996

Md SHPO

North elevation

3 of 4





SM-539

Sparks/Hulley House

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

August, 1996

Md S&FO

Interior - turned pencil

4 of 4